

AGENDA



Thursday, December 6, 2007

Public Works**Item No. 29****RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Subject: Authorize execution of a construction contract with SOUTHLAND CONTRACTING, INC., Fort Worth, TX for the ACWP Govalle 2, Harpers Branch Area Wastewater Tunneling Project in the amount of \$6,703,477 plus a \$335,174 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$7,038,651.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Sharon Hamilton, P.E. 479-1642, Stan Evans, P.E., 479-1636, Gopal Guthikonda, P.E. 972-0240, Robin Field, 974-7064.

Purchasing Language: Lowest of 1 bid received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9A of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) through the achievement of Good Faith Efforts with 5.81% MBE and 6.31% WBE subcontractor participation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Project Scope includes installation of approximately 1,839 linear feet of 30-inch wastewater line via tunneling, generally along the west side of the southbound frontage road of IH35 between Riverside Drive and Reagan Terrace. The project also includes 8-inch, 15-inch and 24-inch lines connecting the new tunnel to existing lines. The project specifically includes 4 tunnel construction shafts, seven special deep manhole structures, related streambank restoration for Harpers Branch, and restoration work at the Norwood Dog Park. The work also includes two standard wastewater manholes. Most work is within private property and easements have been obtained by the City of Austin.

Wastewater lines to be replaced have one or more of the following problems, and will be abandoned after the new wastewater lines are installed: root intrusion, cracks, storm water infiltration, collapsed pipe, missing pipe, holes, and dropped joints, all of which increase the probability of sanitary sewer overflows. Specifically, this project replaces old wastewater lines that were covered up by highway expansions and buildings/parking garages and are now inaccessible for repairs and maintenance. The line under IH 35 recently became blocked and a temporary emergency bypass lift station had to be installed in response to a wastewater overflow; this project will decommission the lift station once the new lines are in service. Many alternative solutions were investigated, but the tunnel solution was the only reasonable method to construct a new wastewater conveyance in the very limited space between the current and proposed highway Right of Way and the commercial development, where the creek is located. The tunnel will cause the least impact to the creek and the commercial developments, while allowing the emergency lift station to be decommissioned and the imminent threat of a wastewater overflow to be eliminated.

The project is part of the Austin Water Utility's Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP) which was developed to respond to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency's Administrative Order regarding sanitary sewer overflows.

Due to the potential for unknown subsurface conditions, conflicts when installing underground utilities while working in the street right of way and private property, as well as construction problems in areas having surface water and high ground water, a 5% contingency in funding has been included to allow for the expeditious processing of any change orders. The contract allows 300 calendar days for substantial completion, and another 60 calendar days for final completion of this project. The Engineers' Construction cost estimate for this project was \$7,000,000.